What is claimed is:

      1.   A method of accessing documents stored on a first computer system through a second computer system, the first and second computer systems connected in a network environment, said method comprising:

5   storing an identity information document from the first computer system, the identity information document comprising a user-friendly handle identifying a principal and a machine location for the first computer system;

     intercepting a request for access to documents when the request is directed to the user-friendly handle;

10   replacing the user-friendly handle with the machine location; and

     sending request for access to documents to the machine location of the first computer system.

      2.   The method of claim 1 wherein the user-friendly handle comprises an

15 email address.

      3.   The method of claim 1 wherein the machine location comprises and IP address.

20   4.   The method of claim 1 wherein the machine location comprises a public key.

      5.   The method of claim 1 wherein the request for access to documents comprises a principal-initiated request.

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      6.   The method of claim 1 further comprising an initial step of receiving the identity information document from the first computer system.

      7.   A method of publishing documents between a plurality of nodes, the nodes

30 connected in a network environment, said method comprising:

sending an identity information document from a publishing node to an accessing node, the identity information document comprising a user-friendly handle identifying a principal and a machine location for the publishing node;

storing the identity information document on the accessing node;

5   resolving the user-friendly handle with the machine location in a request for access to documents, wherein the request is made from the accessing node to the publishing node; and

sending the request for access to documents from the accessing node to the publishing node.

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8.   The method of claim 7 wherein the user-friendly handle comprises an email address.

9.   The method of claim 7 wherein the user-friendly handle comprises a 15   telephone number.

10.   The method of claim 7 wherein the machine location comprises an IP address.

20   11.   The method of claim 7 wherein the machine location comprises a public key.

12.   The method of claim 11 further comprising:

using the public key to determine the current machine location for the 25   publishing node.

13.   The method of claim 11 further comprising:

registering an encrypted machine name and a registered machine location for the publishing node with a DNS server;

30   resolving the user-friendly handle with the public key;

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converting the public key to the encrypted machine name;

using the encrypted machine name to look up the registered machine location for the publishing node on the DNS server; and

sending the request for access to documents to the registered machine

5   location.

14.   The method of claim 7 further comprising:

verifying that the accessing node has authorization from the publishing node to review the requested documents before publishing the requested documents.

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15.   The method of claim 7 further comprising:

delivering a path name for documents stored on the publishing node to the accessing node.

15   16.   The method of claim 15 wherein the path name is delivered to the accessing node by email.

17.   The method of claim 7 further comprising:

delivering a path name for documents stored on the publishing node to a

20   principal of the accessing node.

18.   The method of claim 17 wherein the path name is delivered to the principal of the accessing node by a telephone call.

25   19.   The method of claim 7 wherein the resolving step further comprises:

intercepting the request for access to documents when the request is directed to the user-friendly handle;

finding a matching identity information document having a user-friendly handle that matches the user-friendly handle in the request;

determining the machine location from the matching identity information

document; and

amending the request to substitute the user-friendly handle with the

machine location.

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20.   The method of 7 further comprising:

delivering a path name combined with the user-friendly handle to the

accessing node; and

parsing the path name from the user-friendly handle prior to resolving the

10   user-friendly handle with the machine location.

21.   The method of claim 20 further comprising:

adding the path name to the request for access to documents before

sending the request to the publishing node.

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22.   The method of claim 7 wherein the identity information document further

comprises more than one machine location for principal identified by the user-friendly

handle.

20   23.   A method of using a user-friendly handle to access documents stored on a

first computer system in a network environment, the method comprising:

storing an identity information document from the first computer system,

the identity information document comprising a user-friendly handle identifying a

principal and a machine location for the first computer system;

25   intercepting a request for access to documents in the form of the user-

friendly handle;

amending the request to replace the user-friendly handle with the machine

location; and

sending the amended request to access the documents to the machine

30   location of the first computer system.

24.   The method of claim 23 wherein the user-friendly handle is an email address.

5   25.   The method of claim 23 wherein the machine location comprises an IP address.

26.   The method of claim 23 wherein the machine location comprises a public key.

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27.   The method of claim 26 further comprising:

using the public key to determine the current machine location for the publishing node.

15   28.   The method of claim 23 further comprising an initial step of:

receiving the identity information document from the first computer system. .

29.   The method of claim 23 further comprising the step of receiving published

20   documents from the first computer system.

30.   A computer system comprising:

a storage module for storing an identity information document received from a second computer system, the identity information document comprising a user-

25   friendly handle identifying a principal and a machine location for the second computer system; and

a name resolution module connected to the storage module for intercepting requests for access to documents stored at the user-friendly handle and amending the request to replace the user-friendly handle with the machine location.

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31.   The computer system of claim 30 wherein the user-friendly handle is an email address.

32.   The computer system of claim 30 wherein the machine location comprises an IP address.

33.   The computer system of claim 30 wherein the machine location comprises a public key.

34.   The computer system of claim 30 further comprising:

a communication module connected to the name resolution module for sending and receiving communications to and from the second computer system.

35.   A computer readable medium encoding a computer program of instructions for executing a computer process for name resolution, said computer process comprising:

storing an identity information document from a publishing computer system, the identity information document comprising a user-friendly handle identifying a principal and a machine location for the publishing computer system;

intercepting a request for access to documents stored on the publishing computer system, wherein the request contains the user-friendly handle; and

amending the request to replace the user-friendly handle with the machine location.

36.   The computer process of claim 35 wherein the user-friendly handle comprises an email address.

37.   The computer process of claim 35 wherein the machine location comprises an IP address.

38.   The computer process of claim 35 wherein the machine location comprises a public key.

39.   The computer process of claim 38 further comprising:

using the public key to determine the current machine location for the publishing node.

40.   The computer process of claim 38 further comprising:

registering an encrypted machine name and a registered machine location for the publishing node with a DNS server;

resolving the user-friendly handle with the public key;

converting the public key to the encrypted machine name;

using the encrypted machine name to look up the registered machine location for the publishing node on the DNS server; and

sending the request for access to documents to the registered machine location.

41.   The computer process of claim 40 wherein the converting step comprises performing an algorithm on the public key.

42.   The computer process of claim 35 wherein the identity information document further comprises more than one machine location for principal identified by the user-friendly handle.